

SISTER OF PRISONER OF THE SHOOTING

Mrs. Gaines Describes the
Scene That Lead Up to the
Killing of Bywaters.

BEGGED HER TO REMAIN

Mrs. Bywaters Deplored the Fact
That She Had Been Forced
to Marry.

HUSBAND'S DUTY POINTED OUT

Dramatic Recital of the Incidents

Preceding the Death of the Newly

Made Husband—What Culpeper

People Say About the Crime.

Special From a Staff Correspondent.

CULPEPER, Va., December 19.—The in-

quest in the Bywaters case at Culpeper was

begin shortly before noon today.

Before the hearing was begun the coroner

and jury reported to the mayor's office

in order to accommodate those who had

to take part in the hearing. Mrs. Gaines, at-

tired in a black costume and apparently

self-composed, was the first witness ex-

amined.

"When I reached the house Saturday,"

she stated, "my brothers said to me, 'It's

all over, they are married.' " Witness went

to her sister's room and found her alone

and weeping bitterly. She said, "Oh, Nellie,

why did they make me marry him? They

have broken my heart because they made

me marry him." "I tried to comfort her

the best I could."

"Now that you are married it's your hus-

band's duty to remain with you, and it's

my duty to go back and stay with my

children. She insisted upon my staying, but

I told her it was impossible for me to do

so, and told her her husband would have

to stay. He said it was impossible for him

to stay there. Witness said when she went

downstairs to see her husband he was in

the sitting room with her two brothers.

She told Bywaters that he would have to

remain, and he said he would have to go

back to town to make some business ar-

rangements and tell his mother. He also

said he wanted to get his announcement

cards out by morning.

"My sister seemed to be in a dying con-

dition, but the necessity of his remaining

with her seemed to be a trifling matter

with him."

Bywaters Furious.

She said that Bywaters became furious

when she tried to persuade him to re-

main, and he was rather insulting in his

manner. Witness said she told him that

she was the lowest dog that ever lived, tel-

ling him that he had taken her sister to

Washington and had an operation per-

formed in the cruelest manner.

She told him she had been with her

sister for two days and had witnessed her

physical and mental agony, and added that

now he wanted to leave her without any

protection. "I told him I prayed to God

that the child might have died rather

than be married to the life she would

have to live with him."

Witness said he laughed at her and sneer-

ed in her face.

"My husband then told Bywaters he wanted

to tell him what he thought of him. He

had violated every obligation as an Odd

Fellow and a gentleman.

"Bywaters said: 'Yes, I know it—you and

the Odd Fellows, what have you got to do

with it?' Mrs. Gaines said that Bywaters

used every vile name under heaven right in

her face and in the face of her brothers

and threatened her husband, mentioning a knife.

"My brothers kept him from her husband.

Witness asked, "Did your sister ask

your brothers not to shoot?"

"No, sir."

"Did she ever spring out of bed when the

shots were fired?"

"No, sir."

"What did she say?"

"She didn't say anything, but she ran

about the house screaming."

"How that account for her being down-

stairs when we got there?" the coroner

asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Did she not recall anything her sister

said while she was screaming?"

"No, sir."

Lemon First on Scene.

John Lemon, she said, was the first per-

son to reach the house after the shooting

occurred.

"He called there in response to a telephone

message sent him informing him that some-

body had been shot.

"Did either of your brothers go upon the

roof after the shooting occurred?"

"No, sir."

Mr. Lemon, she stated, was the first per-

son to go through the room in which her

husband had been confined and go out upon

the roof.

"Mrs. Gaines," asked Capt. Wood, "do

you know if your husband was armed?"

"He was not," was the response.

"Where is Mrs. Bywaters now, and where

has she been since the shooting?"

"In my home," was the response.

"Did you know Bywaters was going with

your sister?"

"No, sir."

"Where were the Strothers boys all the

time the shooting was going on?" asked

Attorney Jeffries.

"They were in my sister's room."

Asked by Mr. Jeffries what idea she

meant to convey when she said not a shot

was fired in the room the witness said

she meant that they did not fire at him until

he was out of the room.

"Who telephoned over to town after the

shooting occurred?" asked Mr. Jeffries.

"Jim," she answered.

"What did Phil do?"

"He went after the doctor. When Mr.

Lemon found that Bywaters was not dead

he asked her for some water for Bywaters.

Then he came and asked if there was any

whisky in the house, and she gave a half

pint flask of liquor that had been purchased

for her sister.

"Mrs. Gaines said she thought Senator

Jeffries was at the house at the time Mr.

Lemon came down and announced that

Bywaters was dead.

She recollected hearing counsel say that

the body should not be disturbed until the

commonwealth attorney and the sheriff

were notified.

"What relation were you and your

brothers and sisters to Will Bywaters?"

"Will Bywaters," she answered, "was

one of my mother's nearest relatives, but I

don't know the degree of relationship. He

was treated as one of her near relations

and was taken into her home as such."

"Is your father living?"

"No, sir."

The story is still on.

STORY OF THE CRIME.

No Excitement in Culpeper—No Pros-

pect of Trouble.

Special From a Staff Correspondent.

CULPEPER, Va., December 19.—Any

reference to alleged excitement supposed to

have been caused by the shooting of Wil-

liam F. Bywaters last Saturday is met

with the query, "What excitement?" and

with the prompt response, "There has

been no excitement here." The residents

of Culpeper do not understand why

the shooting of Bywaters at all was

called, should have caused any excitement

in town. He was killed way out in the

country and the details of the crime were

obtained only by piecemeal, so that by

the time the whole story was made known

the time for excitement had passed. There

was nothing about the town here right

to indicate that anybody was unduly ex-

cited, nor had there been anything to in-

dicate that a hostile demonstration was

even anticipated. James and Philip

Strother, brothers of Mrs. William F. By-

waters, who riddled the body of their

brother-in-law with bullets, were heard

after he had been a member of their

family by the act of the Rev. J. W. Ware

of the Episcopal Church, rode through

the town in their buggy and

had ever happened in their lives to

cause them trouble.

"People 'rubbed' at them," said a mer-

chant, "but said nothing more than to

speak to them the same as they

had when they were in town last

week."

Viewed the House.

The Strother boys spoke to acquaint-

ances as they passed, and upon more than

one occasion they stopped and conversed

with friends. Having attended to their

business, they left town and went to the

house where the tragedy was enacted Sat-

urday. At the house they visited the room

in which their wronged sister lay Sat-

urday at the time Will Bywaters is al-

leged to have made an effort to desert his

bride of two hours, and then the two

brothers, who were the only ones in the

house, were the only ones in the house

when the tragedy was enacted Saturday

night. The Strother boys had shot down

Will Bywaters on the public street, a

resident of the town said last night,

and he might have been shot in the

country, but in their own home out in

the country robbed it of some of its sen-

timental features.

"I think some of the people are disap-

pointed that the killing did not occur upon

the streets."

Business has not been interrupted be-

cause of the shooting nor are any residents

of the town losing much sleep over the

tragedy, unless it is the case of those

with responsibility for the prosecution of

the brothers and counsel who are to ap-

pear in court for them. Farmers are bring-

ing in their loads of turkey for the

Christmas holidays, just the same as they

would have done had Will Bywaters been

dead, and the merchants are doing

their annual holiday business.

Great Deal of Interest.

The dramatic scene that was enacted at

"Rothwood" interests all the people in

the town and most of the residents of

the county on account of the prominence

of the parties, and the case has been

discussed by friends of both sides. Will

Bywaters was a fox-hunter and a sports-

man, and was a man who always pre-

sented a good appearance. He was gen-

tlemanly and courteous, and while he

was exceedingly fond of sports, it was

the kind of sport that is calculated to up-

lift the character of a man. But as he

had admitted before he became the

husband of his cousin, he did what he

could to degrade her as well as himself.

He was a man who was willing to take

the wrong he was willing to take her to

Washington and have her risk her life in

the hands of a man who was willing to

pay a big fee for his alleged criminal

operation. Having seen that she was re-

turned to her home in an almost dying

condition, he was willing to let her

live.

In Washington Thursday.

He was in Washington last Thursday,

two days before the marriage and death

ceremonies were conducted, and got a

check cashed for \$5. Then he came here

probably not suspecting that he would be

known as the one who had accomplished

the ruin of an estimable young woman,

and had then balked at the prospect of

that he might be known as the one who

had done so.

It is felt that Miss Viola

Strother would remain "true" to him, al-

though he had done everything in his

power to bring her to ruin. She had been

away from home for some time, and he

never imagined he would be asked to

give any explanation of her absence. Al-

though he was a man who was willing to

take the wrong he was willing to take

her to Washington and have her risk her

life in the hands of a man who was

willing to pay a big fee for his alleged

criminal operation. Having seen that

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